

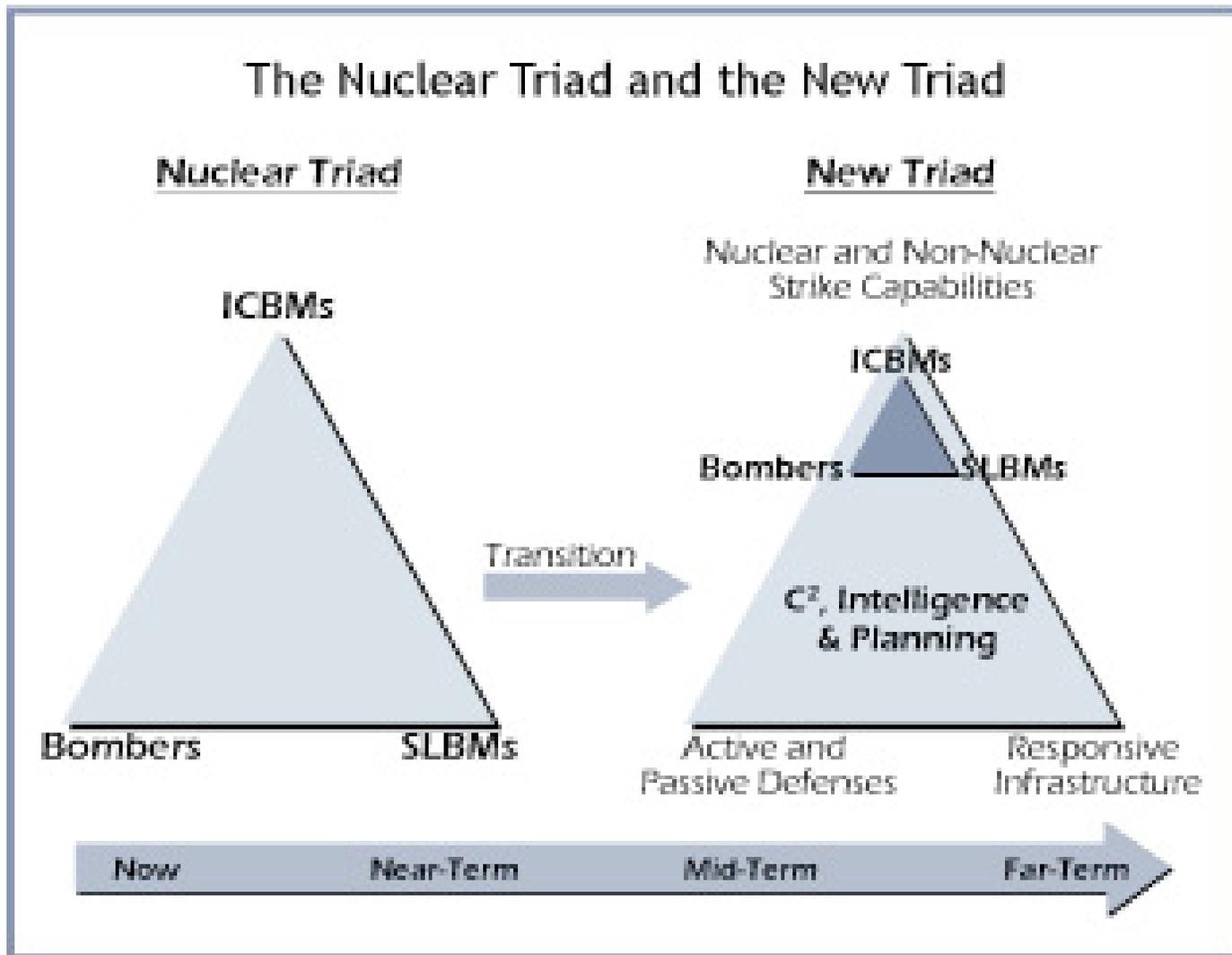
# Does US Strategic Primacy Deter?

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# US Strategic Posture at the Start of the 21st Century

- Adversaries
  - Dissuade, Deter, Defeat, Assure
- Allies
  - Assure and Defend



- **Defense**

- Conventional
- Nuclear



- **Defense**

- **Transformation**

- Asymmetric threat

## US Adversaries

	Al Qaeda	Taliban	Iraqi Army	Sectarian Violence	Libya	North Korea	Iran
Dissuade	N	N	N	NA	Y	Y/N	N
Deter	N	N	N	NA	?	Y/N	Y/N
Defeat	N	Y/?	Y(c)	NA	NA	?	?
Assure	NA	NA	NA	NA	Y	?/N	?/N

- US nuclear weapons appear to have a more limited role than in the 20th century
- Demonstrated US weaknesses
  - Suicide bombings, IEDs, urban insurgency, sectarian violence, US domestic intolerance for US fatalities without evidence of progress

## Deterrence Relationship: US Allies and Friends

	UK	France	Germany	Japan	South Korea	Turkey	Australia	Egypt	Saudi Arabia	Israel	India
Assure				Y/?	Y/?					Y/?	
Defend											

- US nuclear weapons continue to assure our allies however there are indications of uncertainty

## Rivals

	Russia	China
Dissuade	N	N
Deter	Y	Y
Assure	Y	Y

- Russian and Chinese objectives:
  - Pursue their own national interests
    - Use of UNSC to build/sustain international/domestic support
- Contain US power through the UNSC

# Pakistan: Ally or Adversary?

- Supports US counter-terrorism, intelligence
- Provided nuclear know-how to Iran, North Korea, Libya
- Shielding Al Qaeda
- Support for Taliban in Afghanistan
- Support for Islamic terrorism in Kashmir

*Relevance of US nuclear weapons?*

# Continued erosion of domestic support for new US nuclear weapons development

- Concern that US nuclear modernization fuels proliferation
  - Little evidence of connection
  - Recent Wall Street Journal article by Shultz et. al.
- Role of precision, lethal, non-nuclear weapons
  - US decision makers value these more highly because they are “useable”



***Does Strategic Primacy Deter?***  
*Evidence suggests only in very limited roles*